

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 025960
ORIGIN SS-25

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

S E C R E T STATE 025960

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, TSPA, GW, UR, UK, FR, US

SUBJECT: RENEWED SOVIET DEMARCHE ON OTRAG

REF: (A) BONN 1631 (B) BONN 1184; (C) BONN 736; (D) GERMAN/
LAUDERDALE TELCON 1/31/78

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION PARA 10
REF A THAT ANOTHER ATTEMPT BE MADE TO ACHIEVE A COMMON
SECRET

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RESPONSE TO SOVIET DEMARCHE. COMMON RESPONSE SHOULD, TO
FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, BE SUPPORTIVE OF FRG'S RESPONSE
TO SOVIETS AS REPORTED REF C BUT SHOULD NOT IMPLY THAT WE
ARE COMPLETELY RELIANT ON FRG FOR INFORMATION. FOR
LATTER REASON, DEPARTMENT IS NOT KEEN ON ALTERNATE TEXT
PROPOSED PARA 9 REF A WHICH IS IN ANY CASE NOT RESPONSIVE
TO SOVIET DEMARCHES. DEPARTMENT FINDS PREFERABLE AMENDMENT

OF DRAFT TEXT AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED REF B BUT BELIEVES THAT, INSTEAD OF WEAKENING TROUBLESOME SENTENCE BY A QUALIFYING PHRASE, WE SHOULD REWRITE THE SENTENCE IN AS POSITIVE A MANNER AS POSSIBLE. DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS FOLLOWING REPLACEMENT SENTENCE: "WE FOR OUR PART HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT."

2. FYI IN MAKING YOUR PITCH TO THE BRITISH AND FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT ANY DOUBTS WHICH

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE MIGHT HARBOR ABOUT THE OTRAG OPERATION SHOULD NOT BE OPENLY REVEALED IN A COMMON RESPONSE TO THE SOVIETS. WHILE WE DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO THE BUSINESS OF PASSING INTELLIGENCE REPORTS CONCERNING OPERATIONS OF ONE NATO COUNTRY OR ITS NATIONALS TO REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER NATO MEMBERS, YOU MAY TELL OTHER REPRESENTATIVES THAT ALL THE INFORMATION WE HAVE DEVELOPED SO FAR IS SUPPORTIVE OF WHAT THE GERMANS HAVE PROVIDED TO US. PER REF D, EVEN IF BRITISH AND FRENCH SHOULD AGREE TO ONE OF TWO TEXTS PROVIDED REF A, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD HANG IN ON THIS PRINCIPLE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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